

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ACDA-19 USSS-00

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SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON ME

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS OCTOBER 18 CONTRASTS STRENGTH OF ARAB UNITY WITH ALLEGED SIGNS OF DISSENSION IN WEST AND ISRAEL OVER WAR AND OVER U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS. PRAVDA REPORT FROM NY ON UNGA INTRODUCES NOTE OF CONCERN OVER ME WAR AS PROBLEM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE. BUT COMMENTARY IN WEEKLY NEW TIMES PLUGS NEED TO MAKE DETENTE IRREVERSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA COMMENTARY (DEMCHENKO) OCTOBER 18 ADDUCES EVIDENCE OF STRONG ARAB UNITY DURING PRESENT ME WAR AND SAYS COORDINATED ACTION BY ARABS IS ONE OF IMPORTANT CONDITIONS FOR LIQUIDATION OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION. HE NOTES THAT IRAQI, JORDANIAN, KUWAITI, SAUDI, MOROCCAN AND ALGERIAN UNITS ARE ENGAGED IN WAR AND THAT OTHER ARAB STATES HAVE PLEDGED FINANCIAL

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SUPPORT. ALONG SAME LINES, PRESS CARRIES SEPARATE ITEMS REPORTING PALESTINIAN "PARTISAN" ACTIONS BEHIND ISRAELI

LINES, ARAB OIL PRODUCERS' DISCUSSION OF CURTAILING OIL SUPPLIES TO COUNTRIES SUPPORTING ISRAEL, AND PERSIAN GULF OIL PRODUCERS' DECISION TO RAISE OIL PRICES.

3. IN CONTRAST PRESS CITES SIGNS OF DISCORD IN WEST AND ISRAEL. PRAVDA REPORTS LONDON DAILY MAIL STORY SAYING U.S. AND UK AT ODDS OVER USE OF CYPRUS AIR BASE BY AMERICAN SUPPLY PLANES AND AUSTRIAN CP DAILY VOLKSTIMME'S CALL FOR END TO VIOLATION OF AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY BY U.S. PLANES OVERFLYING AUSTRIA ON WAY TO ISRAEL. PRVDA ALSO REPORTS THAT WITHIN ISRAEL WAR IS PRODUCING OPPOSITION, NOTING THAT ISRAELI CP HAS INTRODUCED BILL IN KNESSET CALLING FOR END TO WAR AND SETTLEMENT OF ME CRISIS ON BASIS UNSC RES 242 AND THAT ISRAEL MOTHERS AND WIVES OF SOLDIERS ARE CIRCULATING PETITION CALLING FOR END TO FIGHTING.

4. PRAVDA REPORT ON UNGA SAYS THAT GENERAL DEBATE NOTEWORTHY FOR OVERALL SUPPORT FOR PROGRESS OF DETENTE, BUT ADDS THAT DELEGATES VOICED "JUSTIFIED CONCERN" THAT NEW CONFLICTS ARE INTERRUPTING PROGRESS OF DETENTE. ARICLE NOTES SC DISCUSSION OF ME HAS PRODUCED NO SOLUTION TO CRISIS BUT HAS DEMONSTRATED ISRAELI ISOLATION. IT CONTINUES THAT IT IS DUTY OF UN "TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN ME, TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO MAKE HIGH-HANDED ISRAELI EXPANDISONISTS FULFILL UN DECISIONS."

5. ON POSITIVE SIDE OF U.S. ROLE PRESS REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT MET WITH FOUR ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS OCOBER 17 AND ASSURED THAM THAT U.S. AIM IN ME IS A JUST PEACE SETTLEMENT. IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT PRESS REPORTS FAVORABLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS ON U.S.-USSR 1972 EXCHANGES UNDER HEADLINE "ON THE ROAD TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING."

6. ON U.S. MILITARY ROLE PRESS REPORTS THAT 1500 U.S. PLANES HAVE PASSED THROUGH AZORES "AIR BRIDGE" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TO ISRAEL AND THAT PENTAGON IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL PLANES FROM U.S. AIRLINES TO SERVE THE U.S.-ISRAELI LINK. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS THAT LEBANESE CP HAS CONDEMNED U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL.

7. PRIMACY OF PEACE AND DETENTE THEMES OVER MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IN SOVIET PROPAGANDA IS MANIFEST IN LATEST ISSUE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY "NEW TIMES," WHICH APPEARED OCTOBER 17. LEAD ARTICLE BY NOTED COMMENTATOR VIKENTIY MATVEYEV IS GEARED TO IMMINENT

OPENING OF PEACE CONGRESS AND DEVELOPS THESIS THAT
DETENTE MUST BE MADE IRREVERSIBLE. HE DISPOSES OF
MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT IN A PERFUNCTORY HALF-SENTENCE.
ARTICLE (BY YU. SHVEDKUV OF USA INSTITUTE) ON FOREIGN
POLICY DEBATE ABOUT DETENTE IN U.S. NEGLECTS MIDDLE
EAST ENTIRELY. "NEW TIMES" MAKES PRELIMINARY STAB AT
MIDDLE EAST ANALYSIS IN SEPARATE ARTICLE, BUT THIS
PIECE IS OUTWEIGHED BY SHEER VOLUME OF DETENTE MATERIAL.
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